FREE PURE CULTURES OF AMEBÆ PARASITIC IN MAMMALS

Williams (Jour. Med. Research, Dec., 1911) gives a summary of the results of efforts to get pure cultures of amebæ found in human and other mammalian bodies, and to cultivate these without the bacteria which accompany them.

1. Certain strains of such parasitic amebæ may readily be kept going by using as food sterilized brain, liver, or kidney tissue from dogs, rabbits or guinea-pigs.

2. Such artificial cultures do not show essential morphologic variations as the result of this change of regimen.

3. Certain characteristics used by some students as diagnostic of the pathogenic forms (as, large size, motility, highly refractive ectoplasm, weak, chromatin, etc.) are found to belong as well to non-pathogenic forms, apparently; and thus the diagnostic value of these qualities is correspondingly diminished.

4. It is suggested that the amebæ themselves, and not merely the bacteria usually associated with them, may be responsible for amebic dysentery and amebic abscesses.

A METHOD OF DIAGNOSIS IN SYPHILIS

Noguchi (Jour. Exp. Med., Dec., 1911) reports instances of a cutaneous reaction produced in syphilitic patients by the injection of *luctin* (an extract of pure cultures of *Treponema pallidum*), especaily in tertiary and hereditary (latent) cases, which he hopes may prove valuable in diagnosis of this disease,—as supplementing the Wassermann reaction which is more constant in primary or secondary forms.

TREPONEMA PALLIDUM IN MONKEYS

The same investigator (Jour. Exp. Med., Jan., 1912) has inoculated two species of lower monkeys with pure cultures of *T. pallidum* taken originally from human syphilitic lesions. This results in lesions resembling the primary lesions in man and those caused in the monkey by direct inoculation of monkeys with human serum containing the spirochaetes. The blood of the monkeys furthermore developed the property of giving the positive Wassermann reaction. This result verifies the identity of his supposed pure strains with the disease germ, and definitely relates the Wassermann reaction to the *T. pallidum*.